Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1 - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5 - 6. (Canceled)

7 - 9. (Canceled)

10 - 13. (Canceled)

14 - 34. (Canceled)

35 - 37 (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39 - 43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended) An *in vitro* method for screening a candidate drug that is potentially useful for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a candidate drug with ~~the host cell of claim 42~~ a host cell transformed with a DNA construct, wherein said DNA construct comprises a DNA molecule that encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said DNA molecule is under control of a heterologous neuro-specific promoter, and wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein that has an activity of AD7c-NTP when expressed in neuronal cells, and

(b) detecting at least one of the following:

(i) the suppression or prevention of expression of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell;

(ii) the increased degradation of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell; or

(iii) the reduction of frequency of at least one of neuritic sprouting, nerve cell death, degenerating neurons, neurofibrillary tangles, or irregular swollen neurites and axons in said host cell, wherein said host cell is a neuronal cell;

due to the drug candidate compared to a control cell line which has not contacted the candidate drug.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said DNA molecule comprises a DNA sequence having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said protein is over-expressed by said host cell.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said cell is a neuronal cell.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)